THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

[ESTABLISHED 1840.]

"If thou wouldst find favor and peace with thyself and thy fellow men be very low in thine own eyes. Forgive thyself little and others much."—LEIGHTON.

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THE BOOK OF MORMON.

(*Concluded from page 839.*)

NO KINGS IN AMERICA.

In the Book of Mormon (II. Nephi 10: 11, 12) we read: "And this (America) shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles, and there shall be no kings upon the land who shall raise up unto the Gentiles, and I will fortify this land against all other nations."

Any of you, my brethren and sisters and friends, who are acquainted with the history of America and know something of the Monroe doctrine and other American principles can find many things in evidence of the Book of Mormon. You who are acquainted with the history of the Spaniards in America, know how they wrote their history in blood and desolation, and how they have finally lost all their American possessions. A number of attempts have been made to give the lie to that part of the Book of Mormon which refers to the establishing of kingdoms in America. Spain, as the discoverer of the western world, conquered many of the countries here and tried to exercise monarchial control; but one section after another, as stated, revolted and set up republics of their own. Brazil was to have been an exception to the rule. It was made a kingdom in 1815 under Portugal. When Brazil proclaimed its independence in 1822, Dom Pedro, son of the first king, became constitutional emperor. He was followed on the throne, in 1840, by his son, who succeeded in maintaining a monarchial form of government till 1889, when a republican form of government was proclaimed and has obtained ever since.

A few other unsuccessful attempts to establish kingdoms on American soil have been made. Napoleon the Third, of France, for instance, offered Mexico to the Austrian Archduke Maximilian, who in 1862 was declared emperor, but after the withdrawal of the French troops from the country, the republican troops under Juarez defeated the army of the emperor, who was taken and shot in 1867.

AMERICA A LAND OF LIBERTY.

America was set apart by the Almighty as a land of freedom; there is no room here for an emperor; there is no room for a king nor even a duke. The Spaniards lost their grip on this land; England had to give up the contest to maintain her kingly rule here; and thus this has become a free country. Canada to-day, ruled in one sense by England, is as free as any of the states of America. In this regard then the Book of Mormon is again proven true; no king has ever prospered in America.

One peculiar circumstance, somewhat associated with our own people, I must refer to briefly. Perhaps some of you remember the story of James J. Strang, an apostate Mormon, who with other apostates tried to set up a church and a kingdom of their own. Strang organized his church in Pittsburg, Pa., April 6th, 1845, and established himself at Voree, Michigan. He soon went further and declared he was going to set up a kingdom. With this in view he crossed over to Beaver Island, in Lake Michigan, where he allowed himself to be crowned king of that island; but he did not last very long in that capacity. Some of his associates rose up against him and slew him. No king in America! And if James J. Strang had had the least spark of truth in him, and if he had remembered anything at all in regard to the Book of Mormon, he would not have attempted to set up a kingdom, even of that kind, in free America.

There will never be kings in America, according to the belief of the Latter-day Saints, until Christ shall reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and we certainly will have no objection to His rule. God has said that the people in the western world should be a free people, and that this land would be a choice land above all other lands.

A FRENCHMAN'S OPINION.

The Book of Mormon, as I said before, is a most remarkable book. In conclusion, I want to quote the language of one of own brethren, Elder Louis A. Bertrand, a scholarly Frenchman, who accepted the gospel when President John Taylor labored as a missionary in France in 1850. Elder Bertrand wrote a book in the French language, at a time when the publication of such a work would almost seem impossible among the people who had not accepted "Mormonism." Elder Bertrand sums up his opinion of the Book of Mormon in these words: "Our conversion (to 'Mormonism'), the fruit of a sincere and persistent conviction, declares better than all we

could say, our opinion upon the authenticity, the social and religious importance of this book. No other book, since the Koran, has given birth to a people. The Book of Mormon, in the midst of the blaze of the nineteenth century, has served as foundation to a new people in America. Who can explain this strange social phenomenon of a religious novel accomplishing such a wonder, in presence of the unheard of progress of our age? Giving birth to a people is not such a common thing. From the time of Luther the interpreters of the Bible in both worlds have been able to create sects only, and the philosophers, only systems of philosophy; Joseph Smith is the only one who has laid the foundation of a new society. In the midst of the anarchy of opinions sensible men of all parties must judge of a work only by its results."

PERSONAL TESTIMONY.

In conclusion, I desire to bear my own testimony in regard to the Book of Mormon. Perhaps I have had as much to do with the reading and studying of that book as most people in the Church. It has fallen to my lot on two different occasions to assist in revising the book in the language of my mother tongue. I have spent years and years, off and on, reading and revising it. The last time I did this, I labored in connection with my esteemed brother and friend, President Anthon H. Lund. During a year and a half we spent our spare time in making a thorough revision of the book, so that it might be read in as good Danish as possible. In doing such a work, my brethren and sisters, a man who is conscientious, a person who believes that man's eternal salvation depends upon the acceptance or rejection of the book, can not go through it in the manner that we did without a prayerful heart. There are indeed many passages in the book that cause people to think most profoundly, and we cannot read much of it before we come to the same conclusion that Willard Richards came to when he first read it in the early days of the Church. Said he: "Man never wrote this book. Either God or the devil produced it; men could not." That is the testimony that we bear, who have had so much to do with it. We can't do otherwise.

My dear brethren and sisters and friends, I testify to you in the name of Jesus Christ that I know the Book of Mormon is true. I know this independent of the Three Witnesses, independent of the Eight Witnesses, independent of all the testimonies that have come to us from the Spanish world or the antiquities of America. I know this independent of what I learned in Polynesia and of everything else that I saw and heard while I circumnavigated the globe. I know, by the inspiration of heaven, that the Book of Mormon is true. It was written by holy prophets and inspired men who lived on this continent. They wrote it as they were moved upon by the Spirit of God; and when their work was completed they sealed up their records and hid them in the earth to

come forth in the due time of the Lord. Eighty years ago to-day that sacred record was delivered into the hands of the Prophet Joseph Smith that it might be translated and come forth in this dispensation. May the gospel of Jesus Christ and the grand and glorious truths contained in the Book of Mormon spread over the whole world, and may the knowledge of God finally cover the earth as the waters cover the mighty deep, is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

SIX REASONS WHY I AM A LATTER-DAY SAINT.

I HAVE been accused—and I expect that many of the saints have also—of joining this Church without giving its tenets a thorough investigation; else, I am told, I would have had more sense and would have had nothing more to do with this people and their religion. But the very opposite to this is the case. I have studied many works on theology. The result was I was confounded in a maze; but when I had thoroughly entered into an investigation of the doctrine of the Latter-day Saints I knew it to be the truth and I received light upon light. I would like to set forth my reasons for becoming a Latter-day Saint.

1. I am a Latter-day Saint because I have within me the abiding witness of the Holy Spirit that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the true Church of God, again established in these the last days, never to be overthrown nor given to another people.

2. I am a Latter-day Saint because, apart from the doctrines promulgated by the Latter-day Saints, there is not one creed in Christendom wide enough to embrace both the justice and mercy of God.

3. I am a Latter-day Saint because my views on religion, in many cases, prior to becoming a Latter-day Saint, were synonymous to those held and taught by this Church.

4. I am a Latter-day Saint because I believe that the Creator of all things is a God of order and not confusion. And I recognize the contention and confusion that exist in the so-called Christian churches of to-day, through the doctrines of Jesus Christ having been supplanted by the doctrines of men.

5. I am a Latter-day Saint because I believe that the Church of Christ should be one in spirit and in doctrine.

6. I am a Latter-day Saint because I believe that the fount of revelation has not dried up. There is nothing secret that shall not be revealed: therefore I have a desire to be guided of the Spirit into all truth.

40 Ripon Street, AUBREY PARKER.
Gateshead-on-Tyne.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

"HERE you stand at the parting of the ways; some road you are to take; and as you stand here, consider and know how it is that you intend to live. Carry no bad habits, no corrupting associations, no enmities and strifes into this New Year. Leave these behind, and let the Dead Past bury its Dead; leave them behind, and thank God that you are able to leave them."

EPHRAIM PEABODY.

And thus to-day begins another year:
Another milestone's passed on Time's highway:
Another chapter starts in our career;
Another page of Life we turn—to-day.
How shall we write each yet unwritten page?
Shall Prudence, Pride, or Passion guide the pen?
On the grim tramp towards another stage,
What thorns and pitfalls wait the feet of men!

Pause for a while and gaze, with Memory's eyes,
Down the dim vista of the by-gone stages—
What ghosts of shattered resolutions rise!
What wars Reproach within our bosom wages!
Oh, for those fervent vows we could not keep!
Oh, for those promises in secret spoken!
How noble our intentions, and how deep,
And yet, alas, how soon but to be broken!

To all of us within this vale of tears
There comes a certain time, however brief,
When, like a picture, our past life appears,
And all our faults stand out in bold relief—
The act of selfishness—the thoughtless sneer—
The chance we lost—the prize we might have won—
The word of love with-held from someone dear—
The countless things we *could* and *might* have done.

Tried in the judgment hall of our own minds
We stand condemned, and yet the lesson's vain:
Leaving one blotted page of Life behind,
We turn the leaf—to sully it again.
And who can tell which leaf may be our last!
But God is good even where all is stain.
Let us forget the miserable past
And humbly, honestly, try once again.

* * * *

And thus to-day begins another year.
To the bright star of Hope let mankind turn.
Unto the hungry may it bring good cheer,
And may the sick the joys of living learn.
May it bring strength unto the weakling Folly,
And may true Charity the whole world span.
May it breed Love and banish Melancholy
And bring more near the brotherhood of Man.

G. A. M.

ANOTHER WITNESS FOR THE TRUTH.

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS,—

Having read the testimonies which have appeared in the MILLENNIAL STAR from time to time, I desire also to bear testimony to that which I know to be true. About sixteen months ago, while looking over a weekly newspaper, I saw the reports of two addresses which had been delivered by two of our leading local clergymen, each having taken for his subject "New Theology." After reading them I compared them, more out of curiosity, I believe, than anything else. But I have since realized that that comparison, simple though it was, was the first of a series of events which were to arouse me from that state of blissful ignorance into which I had fallen (or to be more correct, had been hushed) in common with thousands of others by men posing as servants of the Most High. It is not necessary for me to give the details of those two addresses. Suffice to say, they were so conflicting that they caused me to wonder how God could expect us to find the strait and narrow way of which our Savior spoke when those claiming to be guides were not agreed upon it.

From that time I began to think more seriously about religion than I had ever done before, and I prayed often to the Lord to lead me into the right way, if there was any particular church pointing out that way. I investigated the doctrines of various sects, and the further I investigated the greater became the confusion. It was during my investigations that I first became acquainted with the doctrines of the Latter-day Saints, by means of a tract which had been left at my home by one of the missionaries laboring in our town. Having read and compared it with the scriptures which it quoted, I felt as though a new light had dawned upon me, and not only this, but I felt upset also. The contents of that small tract troubled me more than whole books I had read from the pens of some of our leading divines. Eventually the missioner called again and my wife purchased from him a pamphlet entitled "Rays of Living Light," by Elder Charles W. Penrose. As I read that book and compared its teachings with those of our Savior and His Apostles, I felt its truth sink into my heart. I determined to attend a meeting of the saints, which I did, my wife accompanying me. At the close of the service one of the elders gave me an invitation to visit him at his apartments that he might explain some more of the doctrine to me. I accepted the invitation, and on the evening appointed I presented myself to learn more of the Lord and His will concerning me, and I will say that, although a regular church-goer, I heard more truth that evening than I had heard in all the churches I had ever attended.

Being unwilling to deceive myself when the truth had been revealed to me, I was baptized, along with my wife, into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on the 29th of January, 1908.

Since then I have not only enjoyed that peace and satisfaction which defies a human explanation, but I have also enjoyed the blessings of the holy gospel. I have seen sickness rebuked and leave the bodies of my children. Some time ago, about one o'clock in the morning, I was seized with a very severe spell of sickness. I continued to grow worse. I greatly desired that the elders might come and administer to me, but we did not like to arouse them at such an untimely hour. I remembered we had some consecrated oil in the house, so I drank some of it, and prayed to the Lord to heal me of my sickness. My prayer was answered almost immediately, and I returned to my bed and slept till morning.

I thank my Heavenly Father for the testimony I have in my heart of the truth of the gospel taught by the Latter-day Saints, for I know He has put it there in answer to my prayers. I know that God is the same to-day as He was in the days of Abraham, Moses and all the other prophets. I know that Jesus is the Redeemer, and that Joseph Smith was a prophet raised up in these last days to be an instrument in the hands of the Lord to reveal again to mankind that strait and narrow way which had for so many centuries been hid. I pray that I may be enabled by the Holy Spirit to continually walk therein, for I know it will eventually lead me into my Father's presence.

23 Maybank Road, Birkenhead. JAMES H. RADLEY,

CHRISTMAS WORK AMONG THE RELIEF SOCIETIES.

"THE laborer is worthy of his hire," and we feel that the Relief Societies throughout the European Mission are entitled to a few words of praise for the very creditable work they have performed during the past year, and especially at Christmas time. As the season of "Peace on earth and good-will to all men" drew near, the officers and members of these benevolent organizations got materials together and set to work to make warm, comfortable articles of wearing apparel for the benefit of the poor and needy members of their respective branches. Donations of money were also cheerfully given, and these were used in the purchase of meat, groceries, fuel and other articles. Many homes were warmed and many hearts cheered and comforted on Christmas Day through the kindly ministrations of our faithful sisters. Sister Maud Stevens, secretary of North London Relief Society, reports the entertainment on the 21st inst. of the worthy poor of the branch. Refreshments were served, after which encouraging remarks were made by President Alvin E. Jordan and Elder Don C. Rushton. Parcels of food and clothing and small sums of money were given to the needy sisters, and the blessings of God invoked upon them. The officers and members of Liverpool Relief Society were also mindful of the poor in their midst and contributed generously toward their comfort at Christmastide.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1908.

THE LORD'S WORK IN THE PAST YEAR.

THE seventieth volume of the MILLENNIAL STAR closes with the expiration of the year 1908. Like all the years in these latter times, this has been eventful and momentous. It is not the province or the purpose of this periodical to descant on the doings of the world, but to touch upon the most prominent incidents connected with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints during the year that has now passed into history. This we must do but briefly for lack of space. To those whose eyes have been touched with the light of the Lord, His hand has been visibly manifested in the work that has been performed and the advancement that has been made.

The chief interest of the saints is centered in Zion, to which the hearts of all of them are turned and whose welfare is dear to their souls. Truly the Lord has blessed His Zion in the valleys of the mountains. He has strengthened her stakes and enlarged her borders, and she has prospered exceedingly. The blessings of the earth, the wealth of the hills, the increase of the flocks and herds have been commensurate with the blessings from above that have flowed down in rich profusion upon the faithful of latter-day Israel. The progress of the people is seen in the augmented attendance at public worship, both on Sundays and during the week, in the payment of their tithes and offerings, in the observance of the laws and counsels of the Most High and the teachings of His inspired servants, and in the unity which binds them together for mutual interest and general advantage.

Improvements have been effected in the quorums of the Holy Priesthood, which have been more closely organized and trained in their special callings. So with all the auxiliary societies for the old and the young. New and spacious meeting-houses have been finished and dedicated in many wards. Educational establishments have flourished and comfortable homes have multiplied, while the poor have been diligently looked after, so that the poverty of the Old World and of many places in the New is an extreme rarity and never allowed to continue. Truly, Eternal Providence has attended the saints gathered out of many nations.

The First Presidency, the Apostles, the Presidents of the Seventies, the Presiding Bishopric, the Presidents of Stakes, the Bishoprics of Wards, with the Teachers and others officers of the Church, have been alive to their duties, and their influence for good has been felt and is manifested throughout the cities and towns and settlements of the saints. One notable achievement in the direction of unity and progress was the triumph at the November election when the anti-"Mormon" combination, pledged to the overthrow of the Church and its leaders, was utterly defeated in spite of the anticipated and boasted victory by unprincipled conspirators and adventurers. It was a shining sign for future guidance, a token of what can and should be done in the year upon which we are about to enter

Zion has sent forth, during the year, many hundreds of new missionaries to replace those who had filled their term in various parts of the world. At the close of the year, there are about two thousand elders in the mission field preaching the gospel of the Kingdom as a witness to all nations that the end is near. They are unpaid ministers of Christ. They have no salary. But their relatives in Zion aid them with the needful means for travel and support when they do not have it themselves, and thus a large outlay is expended by generous hands for the benefit of mankind and the glory of the Lord. They are able to do this because Zion is prospering in things temporal as well as in things spiritual.

In every part of the mission field activity is exhibited and success is being achieved. Throughout the United States a great work is being accomplished. It is carried on systematically but yet spiritedly. Each of the missions (in which there have been some important changes during the year) is presided over by an experienced, devoted, capable Elder in Israel. Those presidents who have been released, or changed from one mission to another, have performed a splendid work, which has placed their names on the eternal records in shining characters and which will bring them a sure reward. They can look upon the fruits of the seeds they have planted and rejoice. One special feature of the labors in the States has been the circulation of the Book of Mormon. Thousands upon thousands of copies have been sold and otherwise distributed, creating an interest in the latter-day work which cannot fail to bring great results; and this has been kept up continuously, associated with earnest endeavors of elders traveling from city to city and from place to place, publishing the glad tidings of the restored gospel.

The European mission has not been behind in these grand efforts for the enlightenment of the world. Every section of it is vibrant with life. Nearly three hundred elders are at work in the British Isles. Many of them, however, are new in the field, numbers having returned to their homes after faithful labors for two years and upwards. More laborers in the vineyard are wanted. A few, very

few, have been released because of ill health, not being able to stand the climate and the changed conditions here. There have been four deaths of missionaries during the year, two in the Swiss and German mission, one in the Netherlands-Belgium mission, and one in the Turkish mission. The sympathies of all hearts went out to the bereaved ones at home, and they had the consolation of knowing that their dear ones departed while in the Master's service. The general health of the missionaries has been good, and when sickness has assailed them, they have recovered by the blessing of God and the laying on of the hands of their brethren.

When the full statistical report is published it will be seen that a mighty work has been accomplished and that much success has attended it. Throughout the Continent of Europe, also in Sweden, Denmark and Norway, the way of the servants of the Lord has been opened marvelously, the hostile feelings of the people and of government officials have been softened, the plans of wilful opponents have been overruled for good, and the gospel is winning its way in a remarkable manner. In Turkey, too, interest has been awakened, and the change in the government, which has brought in a large degree civil and religious liberty, has been the means of opening the door to the preaching of the word, and the Books of Mormon which have been held so long by the local authorities have been released, and now Turkish people may read in their own language the history of the ancient inhabitants of the American Continent and the revelations of God given to them in past centuries. In South Africa fresh life has been imparted to the work of the mission. There have been many additions to the Church. New fields are being opened. Among them are Budapest, Vienna, Lyons, Lille, South Wales, and towns in Ireland. Newspaper opposition, calling for vigorous replies which have been published, has been one means of attracting attention to the good cause. Presidents Serge F. Ballif of the Swiss and German, Sylvester Q. Cannon of the Netherlands-Belgium, Soren Rasmussen of the Scandinavian, Peter Sundwall of the Swedish, J. Wilford Booth of the Turkish, and Henry L. Steed of the South African missions have all been blessed of the Lord with signal ability in their respective fields and have been faithful and devoted to their work. They are worthy of all commendation.

In the British Isles the elders have been indefatigable and persistent in distributing Church literature, going from house to house, having conversations with people who would listen, holding outdoor meetings when it was practicable, and indoor services at regular times, instructing the saints, bearing testimony of the restoration of the gospel, and generally showing by their deportment and abstinence from the evils of the world that they are servants of the Living God. There has been a marked increase of the work performed over that of the previous year. During 1908 nearly five and a half million tracts and more than one hundred

and sixty thousand books have been distributed, and there have been a little over twelve hundred baptisms. The full statistics will appear in the MILLENNIAL STAR when the December reports have been received and the exact totals can be given. These figures, however, are indications of the diligence of the missionaries and evidences that the Lord has greatly blessed their endeavors. Conference presidents and clerks are urged to send in their annual reports without delay.

There have been shipped during the year, through the Liverpool office, 1,297 persons, including elders returning and infants. With the exception of one company, they have passed into the United States without difficulty. The account of the detention at Boston of the passengers by the s.s. *Republic* has appeared in the STAR, but was greatly exaggerated and distorted by the press through false reports sent from Boston and originally published there. Considerable excitement was aroused for a while in this country, but this fell flat when the facts were made known and the truth was made clear, that the Church was not engaged in persuading anybody, old or young, male or female, to emigrate to Utah; that it paid no emigrant's passage; that it advised converts to stay in their own country and help to build up the Church there; that the males exceeded the females in number, and that all persons who emigrated to Utah went with their own means or by the aid of relatives and friends who had preceded them. The figures we have given embrace all who have been shipped during the year through this office from every country in Europe. Some difficulty was occasioned by the detention of a number of Armenians from the Turkish mission, a few of whom were afflicted with trachoma, but they all subsequently recovered and went from Havre and finally arrived safely in Utah.

The President of the mission has been able to perform his duties with vigor and with pleasure, wasting no time, spending no idle hours, traveling, preaching, counseling, conferring with the presiding officers and the elders, attending conferences and district and other meetings, answering a host of correspondents, visiting every conference at least twice during the year, addressing meetings two or three times every Sunday, looking after the business of the Liverpool Office, editing the MILLENNIAL STAR, replying to attacks in many newspapers, and engaging busily in the work of the Lord, thankful that he has had and still has the opportunity of doing so, and is sustained by the blessing of God and the faith and support of the elders and the saints. He attended the Universal Peace Congress in London as a delegate from Utah, July 27th to August 1st, and was cordially received and entertained.

Sister R. B. Penrose has faithfully watched over the interests of the Relief Societies and has addressed many public meetings in different places. She attended the International Congress of Women at Amsterdam, June 15th to 20th, as delegate from Utah

by the appointment of the Governor, and was received with marked attention and respect, being appointed as one of the speakers. An excellent impression was made upon the Congress composed of lady delegates from many nations. Sisters Booth in Turkey, Cannon in Holland and Steed in South Africa have each been of great aid in the respective missions and have exercised a marked influence for good.

The work in the Liverpool Office has been conducted with care and ability by the brethren engaged therein. Elder John S. Smith was released from his labors as secretary early in November, after being in the mission field about twenty-nine months, serving efficiently and with signal ability. Elder Joseph S. Mulliner took his place in the office, which he still occupies, and was succeeded ably in his former position by Elder Ralph H. Ludlow. Elder W. A. Morton has continued his valuable services on the MILLENNIAL STAR, as well as his excellent work in the Sunday School interest and occasional welcomed visits to different conferences and district meetings. All these brethren have been devoted to the work and, especially during emigration times and on the arrival of missionaries and visitors from Zion, have given essential services to the general satisfaction.

The publishing department has been active as usual. In 1908 no less than 6,133,000 tracts have been printed (1,225,000 of which were the "Rays of Living Light," still in great demand), 140,000 bound pamphlets, 153,000 conference circulars with large numbers of district meeting notices and much miscellaneous printing. The MILLENNIAL STAR has maintained its circulation with gratifying increase, and is read by many persons besides Church members.

Considerable opposition has been encountered at many points from anti-"Mormon" agitators, sectarian ministers, and sensational newspapers. Advice given to the elders and the saints to pay no attention to professional libelers and retailers of vile slander has been closely followed, to the great chagrin of those persons who seek to profit by arousing contention and whose influence soon fades when there is no response to their challenges. The general results from the hostility thus exhibited have been good. When respectable public journals have published attacks upon the Church that merited a reply, most of them have published our responses, and thus both sides have been presented. Interest has been aroused by the malicious efforts of our assailants and our meeting houses have been crowded by investigators. Threatening letters, vulgar and obscene, have been sent to us, to which we have paid no attention. Some disturbances have occurred at our meeting places, but the police have invariably given the protection asked for, and all the attempts at violence have come to naught.

During the year, many new and better places for public worship have been secured which has given great joy to the saints and caused many respectable people to attend our services. The pur-

chase of the fine premises known as "Deseret" at South Tottenham, London, now the headquarters of the London conference, was an important acquisition to the Church, and has given it a prestige in the Metropolis which it never enjoyed before. At Durham House, the headquarters of the European mission, improvements have been effected by throwing together two big rooms, making a spacious hall, none too large, however, for the congregations that assemble there. A small office had to be erected on the west side of the building and other conveniences connected therewith so that our business might not be impeded. At Oldham, in the Manchester conference, a corrugated iron chapel has been purchased which will give the saints in that town, where much opposition has been aroused in the past, a foothold which will be of great advantage.

Prospects generally throughout the European mission are excellent. The Spirit of the Lord burns in the hearts of the faithful saints. His power has been manifested among them in remarkable healings and other gifts. The new members are alive and active in the work of the Lord. A number of the old members who were lost to view have been hunted out and quickened into new life. We have cause to praise the Lord for His abundant mercies in the year that has gone and to anticipate His further blessings and inspiration in the year about to come. We welcome its advent, and extend to all our readers in every land and clime, and to all people who are looking for light and desire the welfare of humanity the compliments of the season, with the sincere wish and hope and prayer that 1909 may be to them a blessed and happy New Year.

C. W. P.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

Successful Concert.—On Saturday evening, December 12th, 1908, a "Character Concert" was given by the Sunday School girls of Hyde branch (Manchester conference), under the direction of Sister E. Davies. Those taking part did so with credit to themselves and much to the enjoyment of the assembled saints and friends.

District Meetings.—Two interesting and very instructive district meetings were held in the Arcade Building, Barnsley (Sheffield conference), on the 20th inst. There were present President Josiah H. Eardley and eight traveling elders of the conference. At the evening meeting a number of strangers were present and listened with interest to the doctrines set forth by the elders, and greatly appreciated the solos rendered by Elder Frederick C. Sandford. The meetings were peaceful and the Spirit of the Lord was made manifest throughout.

Suitable Christmas Present.—President T. J. Bennett writes:

"The Irish conference received a Christmas gift with which we are all highly pleased. It is a beautiful, enlarged portrait of President Charles W. Penrose (38×32 in.), presented by Mr. and Mrs. Stitt, photographers, of Belfast, Ireland. Mr. and Mrs. Stitt, while not members of the Church, are admirers of the President of the European mission, and friends of the elders. The portrait at present adorns the walls of the meeting-room of the Belfast branch. The elders and saints of the conference extend sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Stitt for their beautiful gift, and wish them a bright and prosperous New Year.

Birthday Celebrations.—About eighty saints and friends assembled at the meeting-room of the Latter-day Saints in the Building Trades Exchange, Sheffield, on Monday evening, December 20th, when a delightful program, given under the auspices of the Mutual Improvement Association of the Sheffield branch, was rendered. The event was in commemoration of the birthday of the Prophet Joseph Smith. The program, which lasted two hours, consisted of musical selections, readings and sketches, some of which bore directly on the prophet's life. About one-half of the numbers were rendered by people not of our faith, but who are always ready and willing to assist in entertaining the saints and their friends. All present thoroughly enjoyed the evening's entertainment.

Socials.—The Wigan saints and friends held a successful social on the evening of the 22nd inst., in honor of Elder Roger W. Creer, who was honorably released and returned home on the 23rd inst. A very enjoyable time was spent. The departing missionary was presented with a suitable and enduring token of love and esteem.

A very successful social was held at Blackburn (Liverpool conference), December 19th, 1908, in honor of Elder W. A. Jones and wife. Elder Jones labored for twelve months in Blackburn, and was honorably released and sailed for his home in Utah on the 23rd inst. About ninety saints and friends assembled to enjoy themselves and to say good-bye to Elder Jones and wife. A pleasing program was rendered, after which refreshments were served. Elder Jones was presented with a neat dressing case, and Sister Jones with a number of handsome presents.

Baptisms.—A baptismal service was held at the Montpelier Baths, Cheltenham (Bristol conference), on the 23rd inst., when two members were added to the church, Elder D. D. Harris officiating. Confirmations took place at the baths.

Three members were added to the church at Sunderland (Newcastle conference), on the 22nd inst. The ceremony took place at the Lambton Street Baths, Elder Joseph W. Bambrough officiating. The new members were confirmed at the place of baptism.

On the 20th inst. a baptismal service was held at "Deseret," South Tottenham, London. Elder F. F. Vance initiated another convert into the fold of Christ.

A baptismal service was held at the Glossop Road Baths, Sheffield, December 28th, 1908, when five souls were added to the Church of Christ. Elders Nephi Hodgson and John C. Hall spoke upon the necessity and sacredness of water baptism. Elder Thomas Alston, Jr., officiated. Confirmations took place at the water's edge.

Sunday School Treat.—The children of Liverpool, Bootle and Birkenhead Sunday Schools were given a most enjoyable treat on Boxing Day, at the headquarters of the European Mission. The meeting hall was tastefully decorated with holly, mistletoe, flowers, etc., and presented a most attractive appearance. A large crowd of children and a goodly number of adults assembled. After opening exercises, these received a very cordial welcome from President Penrose. On behalf of all present he thanked and complimented Sisters Souter, McAdam, Opie and Rutter for the time they had spent and the taste they had displayed in decorating the room. In a brief address to the little ones he told them of the gift which God had given to the world—His only begotten Son, also of the Savior's love for little children. Exhorted them to do good and to refrain from evil, to love, honor and obey their parents. A very excellent program was rendered, principally by the children, after which an hour was spent in amusing games. Presents were then distributed, and the little ones returned to their homes with glad hearts and cheerful countenances.

Happenings in South Africa.—A letter from President H. L. Steed, in which he reports the progress of the work in South Africa, contains the following interesting item: "There has been scarcely a day recently that we have not seen some manifestation of God's goodness. Several cases of healing have occurred, and the elders are rejoicing exceedingly in these great blessings. I have had much faith in spiritual gifts since I was miraculously healed of an attack of brain fever under the administration of Dr. Karl G. Maeser. Yesterday I was hurrying down to our hall to look after some work being done there, and dislocated my ankle by stepping on the edge of an iron water box, which projected about one half inch above the sidewalk. I succeeded in getting my ankle in place, and with much exertion and in considerable pain, hobbled back home. My foot was so swollen that we suspected some of the bones were out of place. About one hour after administration we found, to our surprise, the swelling all gone. I then put on my shoe and walked. To-day I walked over a mile and felt no pain whatever. I am going tracting to-morrow. Sister Luck, who happened to be at our home and saw the injury, came in to-day with palatable foods and to express her regrets that I would not

be able to attend conference next month. I arose and walked to her. She looked at me in astonishment. I informed her I was not an invalid and would not necessarily need her food nor regrets. I had just returned from a long walk down town and had experienced little or no inconvenience. She stood in amazement and acknowledged the hand of God in this, and also in her own behalf. I was just thinking how glorious it would be if you and Sister Penrose could be at our conference next month."

DAILY STRENGTH.

Lord, give me strength, I pray,
To do my work to-day;
To do it right,
With all my might,
Without mistake.
As for Thy sake.

When doubt besets my way,
Let me the question lay
Before Thy throne,
Where all is known,
Where what is best
Will stand the test.

And when the day is drear,
May I keep very near,
And hear Thy voice,
And thus rejoice
That I am Thine,
And thou art mine.

And when my work is done,
And I can homeward run,
In Thee I'll trust,
For Thou art just,
And wilt supply
Me grace to die.

GEORGE E. WILMONTON.

DIED.

HITHERINGTON.—At West Hartlepool, December 12th, 1908, George Hitherington. He was a faithful member of the West Hartlepool branch.

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